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## UA12/2/1 Faces of Bowling Green

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# Magazine



After a reprimand from grandma for playing in the street, Crystal and Ashley Compton take a curbside break.

Amy Deputy/Herald

## Faces of Bowling Green

The faces of people and places in Bowling Green are portrayed in this pictorial perspective.

Some of the city's interesting and intriguing personalities may have escaped the eye of the busy college student who bounces in and out of town every week.



# Magazine

## 3 Faces of Bowling Green

Pictures and portraits of places and faces in the city that Western students don't always get a good look at. More photographs are found on pages 10 and 11. Photos by Herald photographers.

## 4 Picking up the pieces

Eight months ago, Ronny Skirven ended up somewhere he really didn't want to be Bowling Green. But he's making due in his job in a junkyard. Story by Amy Deputy and Todd Turner. Photos by Amy Deputy.

## 6 The Teaching Mayor

Whether Patsy Sloan takes the role as mayor or high school teacher, the first woman leader of city government in Bowling Green is always looking to educate people. Story by Jennifer Underwood. Photos by Jeanie Adams.

## 8 Traveling vet

Dr. John L. O'Brien covers several counties and several animals in his work as a veterinarian. Whether it's a newborn pup or a pregnant mare, animals are in good hands. Story and photos by Tamara Voninski.

Bob Bruck,  
photo editor

Todd Turner,  
editor

## Catholic Newman Center

### MASS SCHEDULE

5:00 p.m. Saturday

10:00 a.m. Sunday

7:30 p.m. Sunday

Weekday Mass(except Friday)5:00

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

12:30-1:30 p.m. Saturday

Anytime Upon Request

### Newman Club Meeting

8 p.m., Thursday, Catacombs.

All Invited!!

Newman Center

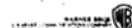
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Films Shown in Duc Theater

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Admission \$1.50

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GREEK WEEK '88 presents:



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West Hall cellar:

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Garrett Conference Center:

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★ All students and faculty welcome ★

Give Blood — You Could Save a Life!

ΦΔΘ ΚΑΨ ΑΧΑ ΚΕ ΧΩ

## Meet Our Margarita.



Monday, Wednesday  
And Friday

**Rafferty's**  
RESTAURANT & BAR

WE'VE GOT IT!  
COTTON

We work hard to deliver fresh news every Tuesday and Thursday, and we're delivered to your dorm. So it's easy to be informed... if you read the *Herald*.



# Faces of Bowling Green

Continued on Page 10

Tulips cast a shadow on a Chestnut Street sidewalk.

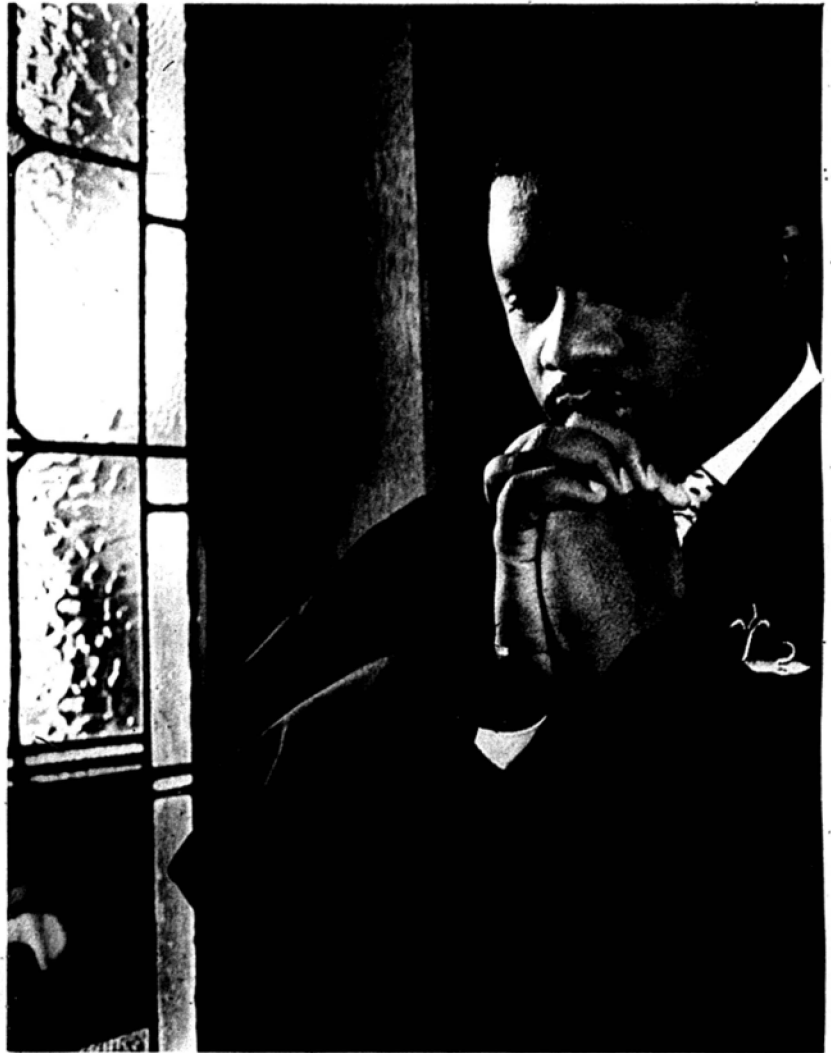


Andy Lyons/Herald



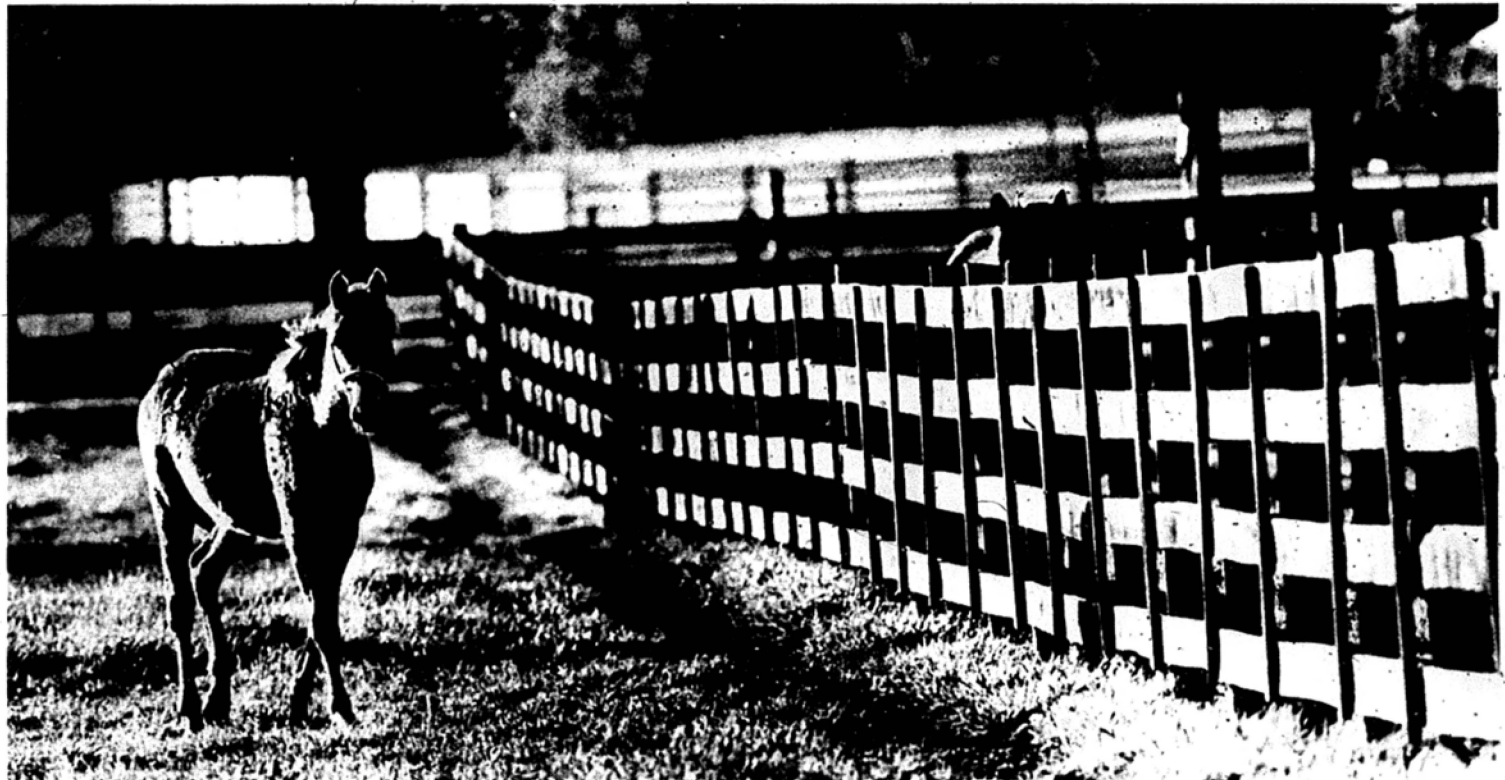
John Dunham/Herald

Petting a rabbit, 2-year-old Rosemary Montgomery enjoys a pre-Easter treat at the pet store in Greenwood Mall.



Amy Deputy/Herald

Posing near a stained-glass window, State Street Baptist Church Rev. Christopher Battle clasps his hands. Bowling Green's first black church, now with 200 members, was built in 1873.



One of Thomas Doug Shank's 28 thoroughbreds walks along a fence at Shank's Smallhouse Road farm across from Basil Griffin Park.

Royce Vibbert/Herald



# Take two aspirin and call the . . . Traveling vet

In Cross Plains, Tenn., last Monday morning, Dr. John L. O'Brien examined pregnant mares at the Anderson Stables.

Fifteen minutes later, O'Brien drew blood from 60 head of cattle at the Franklin (Ky.) Livestock Market to check on the spread of contagious disease.

An hour later, O'Brien returned to the O'Brien Veterinary Hospital on Nashville Road to examine more mares, reaching with his gloved arm into horses' rear ends to estimate the dates of birth.

For O'Brien, a traveling veterinarian, these are typical jobs on a typical day.

"You're going to do routine things," O'Brien said, "but it's a different ballgame because each (animal) is a little different."

On some days, O'Brien travels about 130 miles, making house calls to treat horses and cattle. At the hospital, O'Brien and two veterinarians have a full slate of appointments to examine dogs, cats, horses, and cattle every day.

"He stays on the run," said Terry Knepper, a Nashville client. "I don't know how I keep my mind," O'Brien said. "I've got four things going at once."

"It's been a rough day and it ain't over yet," O'Brien said Wednesday as he walked back to his truck for another visit after a day of surgeries, treatments and telephone calls.

Working six and sometimes eight days a week, O'Brien's hectic and unpredictable schedule doesn't make planning easy.

Still, O'Brien knows most of his clients by first name and phone number. Although he hired two veterinarians to help give him time off from his practice, most request O'Brien personally.

Despite being so busy, O'Brien likes the variety that comes with the job.

After developing a fondness for animals as a child, O'Brien was inclined to become a veterinarian. It seemed like "the natural thing to do." — *Tamara Voninski*



(Above) Dr. John L. O'Brien checks paperwork at O'Brien Veterinary Hospital on Nashville Road. (Upper right) O'Brien gently plays with a puppy after weighing it. (Lower right) To "worm" this horse, O'Brien puts a tube through its nostrils into the stomach.





Photos by Tamara Voninski



Top left) Before giving an injection, O'Brien shows an X-ray of a dog's hip to the canine's owner. (Top right) O'Brien injects medicine

into a horse. (Above) At the Franklin Livestock Market, O'Brien and his assistants checked 60 head of cattle for a contagious disease.

# The Teaching Mayor

As Mayor Patsy Sloan read the minutes at last week's city commission meeting, she casually pointed out a misspelled word.

Bowling Green's first woman leader doesn't keep it a secret that she's a high school teacher—even during commission meetings.

For her, educating people is a full-time job. Sloan educates citizens as mayor and students as a social studies teacher at Bowling Green High School.

"We need to educate the public," the petite mayor told the commission last week. "We need to do a better job of informing them so they'll understand what we are doing."

"Teaching comes into the role of mayor," Sloan said earlier. As elected officials, we "must go out of our way to inform."

And city commissioners Charles Wilson, Alan Palmer, B.L. Steen and Carol Melvor try to work with the mayor in listening to citizens voice their concerns and making sure they understand.

Sloan said she always listens to community members—and their complaints. A mayor has to be "a sounding board," she said.

In school, she's aware of the importance of listening to young people.

Bowling Green attorney Buzz English, a former student of Sloan's, has helped her with campaigns, said Sloan "got her students interested in politics."

It wasn't just textbook learning, he said. "She had firsthand knowledge and experience which gave a different viewpoint" to what the students were studying.

Sloan also helped break barriers

in local politics as the first woman city commissioner.

"It's always hardest to be the first woman," said Dr. John Parker, a government professor. "It deserves a lot of credit."

But Sloan says she doesn't think of herself as a woman commissioner or as a woman mayor.

"I'm the mayor and I'm also a woman," she said. "The fact that I'm the first woman mayor doesn't seem that remarkable to me. It has always been of much greater interest to other people than to me."

Sloan is optimistic about the city. "Bowling Green is on the threshold of something great."

It's important to be optimistic, she said. "The mayor sets the tone for the leadership of the city."

*Jennifer Underwood.*



(Above) Bowling Green mayor Patsy Sloan also lectures on American presidents. (Below) Sloan with city commissioners Alan Palmer and Bernie Steen.



## Photos by Jeanie Adams



(Bottom) Sloan enjoys a kiss and small talk with her husband, Jay, after a long day of work. (Below) Sloan and Fritz—very much a part of the family—relax on the couch at the Sloan home.





In the junkyard and in life, he's . . .

## Picking up the pieces

**T**hrough a maze of mangled metal, Ronny Skirven ambles down a muddy path, flanked by 10-foot high piles of rusted lawnmowers, aluminum coils, bent box springs and automobile engine blocks

"I'd say just about anything you can imagine is in here," Skirven said of the junkyard on Sixth Street.

Anything

Including Skirven's life for the last eight months.

Skirven, 46, works at Warren County Metals Co. as a handyman — operating a crane, welding metals, unloading junk.

The work "makes you appreciate a decent job," Skirven said. "(I'm) lucky to buy cigarettes, beer

and pay the rent.

The twice-divorced Skirven ended up in Bowling Green after being encouraged by a girlfriend to move from Indiana one night when he was drunk. "My downfall has always been alcohol," he said.

In leaving Indiana, he lost a commercial painting job that paid \$12.50 an hour.

"When I'm sober I got a level head. When I'm drunk I get mean. Like a Jekyll and Hyde."

Once he fed a few scraps of food to a stray cat that wandered near his one-room apartment, he said. And he saves jars full of spare pennies as a gift for a co-worker's daughter.

But sometimes Skirven's Mr. Hyde drinks too much, and his normally twinkling blue eyes

glaze.

Now, Skirven is stuck in Bowling Green. He said he hopes to move to Nashville soon to get a construction job.

"It's a bad feeling being trapped," Skirven said. "Yeah, I'm trapped here."

Skirven's low salary forces him to rent his "dump" apartment for \$50 a week rather than monthly, and he hasn't yet saved enough money to make the move south.

"I can't stand the junkyard too much longer. 'Bout to kill me."

"When you work in a junkyard, that's what you become."

"I'm too old for dreams now. You can't live like this. Only thing I do is exist. You can't live like this." — *Amy Deputy and Todd Turner.*







Skirven unravels an electrical cable so he can use the junkyard's metal baler.



(Left) Ronny Skirven takes a break after work in his \$50 a week apartment. (Upper left) Skirven in the junkyard of Warren County Metals Co. on Sixth Street. (Above) Skirven and junkyard mechanic Robert Rigsby, left, spend an afternoon at Rigsby's place.



Photos by Amy Deputy

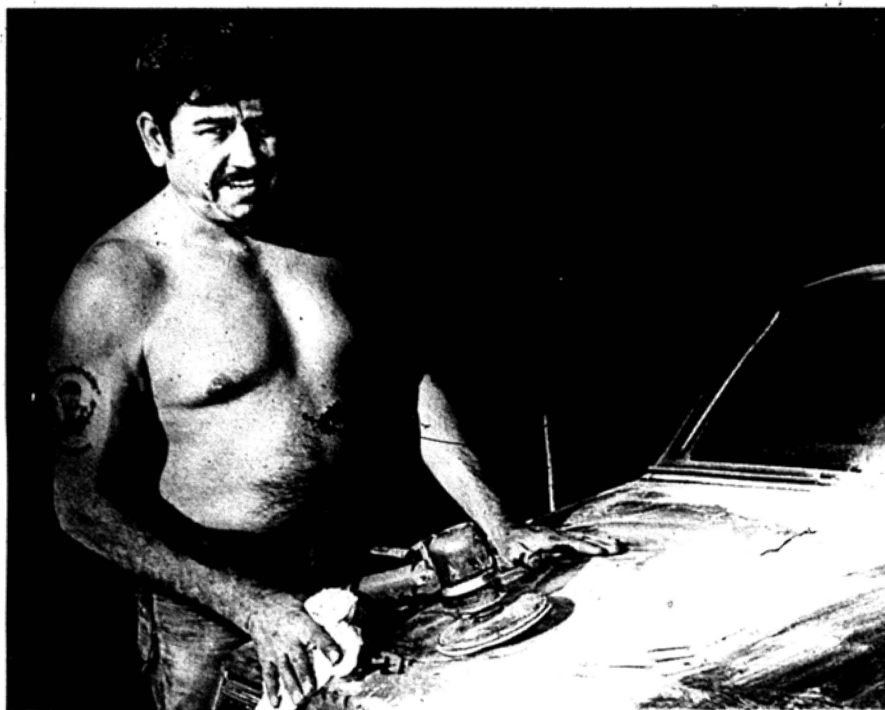


Photo by Tamara Voninski

Roy Pulley, co-owner of Pulley's Used Cars on Nashville Road, said "time passes quicker" when he stays busy refurbishing autos. "A lot of hours go into one car," Pulley said.

## Faces of Bowling Green



Jeanie Adams/Herald

A regular at Kerieakes Park, 61-year-old Opal "Pete" Proctor returns a shot last weekend.



Dr. Dale Adkins, a professor of physical education and recreation at Western, sings in the choir at First Baptist Church on 12th Street.

Omar Tatum/Herald



(Left) Martha Mason of Bowling Green sets to blast a softball Sunday during her team's practice at Lampkin Park. (Below) A sign on a door at Murray's Restaurant on the 31-W Bypass allows only for angry departures.



Photos by Andy Lyons

Rob McCracken Herald



Bob Bruck Herald

(Above) The Galloway grave at Fairview Cemetery on Fairview Avenue stands in the cloudy sky. (Right) Angela Raymer, 8, and sister September, 10, take a break from shopping at Payless Shoesource on the 31-W Bypass for a smile session.



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